

In the claims:

1-11. (Presently canceled)

12. (Presently Presented): An isolated polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

a) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence which is at least 90% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or to the amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Patent Deposit Number PTA-2811, wherein the polypeptide has aminopeptidase activity;

b) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence which is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule which is at least 90% identical to the nucleic acid molecule of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the polypeptide has aminopeptidase activity; and

c) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence which is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes to the complement of the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 under stringent conditions comprising hybridization in 6x sodium chloride/sodium citrate at about 45°C, followed by one or more washes in 0.2 X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 50°C to 65°C, wherein the polypeptide has aminopeptidase activity.

13. (Presently Presented): The polypeptide of claim 12, wherein the polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the polypeptide has aminopeptidase activity.

14. (Presently Presented): The polypeptide of claim 13, wherein the polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence having at least 95% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the polypeptide has aminopeptidase activity.

15. (Presently Presented): An isolated polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

16. (Presently Presented): An isolated polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

17. (Presently Presented): An isolated polypeptide which is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

18. (Presently Presented): An isolated polypeptide which is encoded by the nucleotide sequence of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number PTA-2811.

19. (Presently Presented): The polypeptide of claim 12, further comprising heterologous amino acid sequences.

20. (Presently Presented): The polypeptide of claim 15, further comprising heterologous amino acid sequences.

21. (Presently Presented): The polypeptide of claim 16, further comprising heterologous amino acid sequences.

22. (Presently Presented): The polypeptide of claim 17, further comprising heterologous amino acid sequences.

23. (Presently Presented): The polypeptide of claim 18, further comprising heterologous amino acid sequences.